REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated June 30, 2008.

Claims 1 -12 are pending. By this Amendment, claims ___ have been amended to place the

claims in better form for examination and to clarify the claimed subject matter. Accordingly,

claims 1-12 remain pending upon entry of this Amendment, with claims 1, 5, 7 and 11 being in

independent form.

Claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as purportedly anticipated by U.S.

Patent No. 6,315,651 to Sakuyama et al.

As an initial matter, it is noted that Sakuyama does not anticipate the claims of this

application (filed September 20, 2005 as a Section 371 national stage of International

Application filed PCT/JP2004/003918 filed March 23, 2004 which claims the priority of

Japanese patent application no. 2003-090825 filed March 28, 2003 with the Japanese Patent

Office.

U.S. Patent No. 6,315,651 issued January 1, 2008 to Sakuyama et al. based on U.S.

application no. 10/623,558 filed July 22, 2003. Thus, the effective reference date of Sukuyama is

months after the March 28, 2003 priority date of the present application. Applicant maintains

that the claims of the present application are supported by priority Japanese patent application

no. 2003-090825 filed March 28, 2003 (as evident by a comparison of the drawings of priority

Japanese patent application no. 2003-090825 with the drawings of this application).

Accordingly, since the priority date of this application is months earlier than the effective

reference date of Sakuyama, Sakuyama does not anticipate the claims of this application.

In addition, Sakuyama does not disclose or suggest all aspects of the claimed subject

matter of this application.

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Sakuyama, as understood by Applicant, proposes an approach for reducing a data amount of image data recorded in a recording medium, including obtaining information for determining a data amount reduction remaining force of the image data, selecting image data determined to have a large data amount reduction remaining force, based on the obtained information, and performing data reduction on the selected image data.

Sakuyama, contrary to the contention in the Office Action, says nothing whatsoever regarding accepting the inclusion information of the *code blocks of a number which is smaller than a number of code blocks of sub-bands in ALL levels*, and immediately generating and outputting TAG information corresponding to the accepted inclusion information (independent claims 1 and 7) nor regarding accepting data of the numbers of zero-bit-planes in *code blocks amounting to a number which is smaller than a number of code blocks of sub-bands of ALL levels*, and immediately generating and outputting ZERO-TAG information corresponding to the accepted numbers of zero-bit-planes.

The conventional approach for generating TAG information involves first accepting all code blocks of sub-bands in ALL levels and then proceeding to generate the TAG information and ZERO-TAG information. Sakuyama provides no guidance or suggestion to deviate from the conventional approach.

Sakuyama merely mentions that packet headers can include inclusion information, which is referenced solely in a single instance (see Sakuyama, column 8, line 28), and Sakuyama proposes (column 6, lines 31-62) using in an elongation process (that is, NOT in the image compression process), tag information to restore wavelet coefficients from code data (that is, restoring truncated codes).

However, Sakuyama says nothing whatsoever regarding *generating and outputting* TAG

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information and *generating and outputting* ZERO-TAG information.

In addition, this application and Sakuyama are commonly assigned to Ricoh Company, Ltd, Tokyo, Japan. Therefore, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(c), Sakuyama cannot render the claims in this application unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

In view of the remarks hereinabove, applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance, and earnestly solicits the allowance of the application.

If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such a petition. The Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge any required fees in connection with this amendment, and to credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,
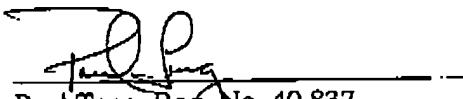
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